

# The Miami Herald

Posted on Sun, Jul. 19, 2009

## Robbery suspect shot by Hallandale Beach officer is recovering

BY DAVID SMILEY

[dsmiley@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:dsmiley@MiamiHerald.com)

Hallandale Beach police are investigating an officer-involved shooting after an off-duty cop opened fire on an alleged armed robber in a casino parking lot.

The shooting happened Friday night at the Mardi Gras Casino when the officer, who was working security at the casino, learned from a patron that a robbery was occurring in a parking lot, said police spokeswoman Capt. Sonia Quinones.

The officer confronted Joel Jules, 19, and shot him multiple times, Quinones said.

Jules was recovering in the hospital Saturday, Quinones said.

Here is what happened in the moments before and after the shooting, according to police reports filed by Detective Rafael Matias:

Jules, Dwayne Escoffery, 21, and Steve Olivier, 22, had driven from Miami to the casino intending to rob someone. Shortly after they arrived around 11:30 p.m., they spotted a security guard, 64-year-old Louis Georges, giving an elderly couple a ride on his golf cart to their car.

Jules walked up to Georges, pointed a gun at his stomach and said, "I'm gonna kill you right now," according to police reports.

Jules then demanded money from the couple.

### WITNESS DRIVES BY

As the couple handed their valuables over to Jules, a man drove by and saw the armed robbery taking place. The witness then found the off-duty Hallandale Beach police officer and told him what he had seen.

Quinones said the officer, whose name has not been released, went outside and confronted the three men. At some point, the officer was threatened by Jules and the officer opened fire.

Jules was taken to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, where he was listed in stable condition Saturday afternoon.

### TWO OTHERS ARRESTED

Olivier and Escoffery ran from the scene but were quickly arrested by police, Quinones said.

Jules is charged with armed robbery and aggravated assault. The two other men admitted to planning a robbery and have been charged as accessories to an armed robbery, she said. They were being held at Broward's main jail Saturday.

Quinones said police recovered a firearm from Jules as well as a silver Honda Accord used by the suspects.

She said the officer involved in the shooting has an "impeccable background," including service in the Iraq War, and has been a Hallandale Beach officer since 2006.

Quinones said the officer has voluntarily taken several days off from work following the shooting.

---

© 2009 Miami Herald Media Company. All Rights Reserved.  
<http://www.miamiherald.com>



---

**Boss praises Mardi Gras security guard for handling of armed robbery attempt**

---

Sun 19 Jul 2009

Juan Ortega

Sun Sentinel

**Multiple Page View**

HALLANDALE BEACH-- The supervisor of a security guard at the Mardi Gras Casino in Hallandale Beach praised him today for keeping a cool head in the midst of an armed robbery attempt.

"I've never seen anyone act so calm after having something like that happen to them," said supervisor Uri Ammar, referring to Louis Georges. "The way he handled it was phenomenal."

Police said Georges, 64, who had worked at the casino and older dog track for about 16 years, was driving customers back to their car Friday night when they were approached by three robbers.

They pointed a gun at Georges and demanded money from the couple, police said.

A witness who saw the robbery under way walked inside the casino and alerted a Hallandale Beach police officer who was working an off-duty detail at the casino.

The officer, an Iraq war veteran who has been with the department for three years, rushed outside and found the robbers, including the one who was armed, police said.

Sonia Quinones, Hallandale's police spokeswoman, said in the incident that followed, the officer was "obligated" to discharge his firearm more than once. More than one bullet struck the robbery suspect, she said.

The injured suspect was one of three -- Joel Jules, 19, Steve Olivier, 22, and Dwayne Escoffery, 21, all of Miami -- who were arrested, Quinones said.

Jules, the robbery suspect who was shot more than once, was taken to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, where he was listed in stable condition, police said.

He was charged with armed robbery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Olivier and Escoffery were charged with armed robbery and principle in the first degree. The latter charge stems from their alleged role as accessories in the robbery, Quinones said.

Both Jules and Escoffery had been on parole for armed robbery.

Olivier gave a statement to police saying the trio drove north on a mission to rob somebody, Quinones said.

The officer was unhurt. In line with police protocol, the officer has been asked to take several days off work with pay. Police said they found the gun belonging to the armed robber, and they will be reviewing the circumstances of the shooting.

Ammar said he had offered Georges the day off on Saturday. He declined.

"He just went on and did his job like he does every day," said Ammar, 24. "I don't think you can be trained for something like that."

[<< Previous Article](#)

[Next Article >>](#)

**Email Friend**

**Back to Broward County**